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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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6-13-1930

## Justice (Vol. 12, Iss. 12)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 12, Iss. 12)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."  
—Job 27.8

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

Vol. XII. No. 12.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1930

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Conference of All Factors In Cloak Industry And Leading Retailers Discuss Trade Situation

### 2 DAY FESTIVITY TO START SEASON AT UNITY HOUSE

The twelfth summer season of our Unity House will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22. In this festivity there will participate our various local unions of New York and vicinity, representatives of the labor movement as a whole, as well as all who appreciate Unity House which offers them rest, comfort, beauty and spiritual and intellectual atmosphere.

No wonder that our members are proud of Unity House and of the fact that Unity House is owned by our International Union and is operated on a non-profit basis and that the comfort of our guests is the only incentive to our efforts. Thus, we demonstrate that organized workers collectively through their trade unions can efficiently manage their own affairs.

On Saturday, June 21, will start our social, recreational and dramatic activities. All our facilities will then be at the disposal of our guests including our comfortable library where they will find many recent books of importance and a librarian always ready to assist them.

We advise our local unions and our members and friends to make their reservations immediately at our New York office which is at 3 West 16th Street, telephone Chelsea 2148. There they can always get detailed information. Early reservations will add to the convenience of our guests.

For the re-opening celebration, the guests will leave for Unity House on Saturday morning, June 21, at 11 a. m. (New York Daylight Saving Time).

**President Schlesinger, as Representative of the Union, Points Out That the Workers Are Chief Victims of Cut-Throat Competition Between Manufacturers, Jobbers, and Retailers.—He Serves Warning That as Soon as Situation Improves, the Union Will Call to Account Every One Who Forces Down Standards of Work and Pay. — His Words Make a Profound Impression.**

On Thursday, June 5, a conference of all factors in the cloak industry and representatives of large retail concerns was held for the purpose of discussing the present situation in the trade and especially the question of how to put an end to the cut-throat competition which is now going on in the trade and from which the cloak workers are the chief sufferers.

The conference was called by George W. Alger, chairman of the Governor's Joint Cloak Commission, and its importance arises chiefly from the fact that representatives of the large retailers participated in it. The conference included representatives of the inside manufacturers' association, the jobbers' association, the contractors' association, and of the Union, the last-named represented by President Schlesinger; while of the large retailers there were present Franklin Simon, chairman of the National Retail Garment Association, a representative of R. H. Macy, as well as representatives of other large department stores.

There ensued a general discussion about the unfavorable situation in the trade and about the cut-throat competition which prevails in it. In the course of the discussion the inside manufacturers blamed the jobbers for the chaos which exists in the industry; the jobbers blamed the inside manufacturers, and both blamed the

retailers, who passed the buck back to their accusers.

President Schlesinger took the floor and in clear and unmistakable words declared that indulging in mutual recriminations and throwing the blame upon one another would not cure the trade of its present ills. "Instead of blaming one another," he said, "would it not be better if all of you united in the interest of the trade, each acknowledging his responsibility to the industry, the workers who are dependent upon it for their livelihoods, and to the public?"

President Schlesinger pointed out that in three-cornered competition between manufacturer, jobber and retailer, the workers are the first to suffer, and he warned his hearers that the Union will not permit this state of affairs to go on. The Union, he declared, is on guard and is well informed about every manufacturer and every retailer who is taking advantage of the present hard times to

force down wages and working conditions. The Union knows also about every retailer who is availing himself of the present depression to bring chaos and demoralization into the industry, and he warned that as soon as the trade situation improved, the Union would call to account every one guilty of impairing working conditions.

"You, gentlemen," Schlesinger told the manufacturers, jobbers, and retailers present, "are taking advantage of the present economic crisis in the country, and of the defencelessness of poor workers, especially of girl and women workers, whom it is hard to organize, in order to force down their wages and conditions of work. But when the crisis has passed, there will be a day of reckoning. The Union will call you to account, and the public will learn of your doings."

President Schlesinger's remarks made a profound impression upon all who were present at the conference.

### Ingersoll Upholds Union's Claim

**Finds Wolf, Rubens & Scheinberg Guilty of Violating Agreement With Union and Orders Firm to Pay About \$2,000 to Its Workers.—Rules Further That Firm, Which Has Turned Jobber, Must Refrain From Employing Cutters or Sample Workers, and That It Must Reinstate Its Former Employees If It Goes Back to Manufacturing During Life of Existing Agreement.**

Under a ruling of the Impartial Chairman of the New York cloak industry, the Cloakmakers' Union has scored an important victory over an inside manufacturing firm which sought by a subterfuge to get rid of its old workers and to evade some of its other obligations under its agreement with the Union.

Several weeks ago, the firm of Wolf, Rubens & Scheinberg, inside manufacturers, discharged their workers and filed application for membership in the Merchants' Association (jobbers) on May 2. Simultaneously the firm resigned from the Industrial Council, the inside manufacturers' association.

The Union objected to the above firm's becoming a member of the Merchants' Association on the ground that due notice was not given to the workers of the firm's intention to become a jobber. It was evident that this action was a subterfuge to rid the firm of the workers in its employ.

On April 9, the Union filed a complaint with the Industrial Council that the firm was discriminating against the inside workers by sending out work while they were partially employed. The firm was instructed that the inside workers must be given preference. However, the firm continued to send out work up to the date of its application for membership to the Merchants' Association.

The complaint was then taken before the Impartial Chairman of the New York cloak industry, Raymond V.

Ingersoll. The Union contended before the Impartial Chairman that the workers suffered a loss in earnings as a result of the firm's sending out work, while the workers were still in their employ. The Union insisted that the workers should have been given an opportunity to get all the work during the current season and be given due notice of the firm's intention to discontinue manufacturing for the Fall season.

The Union also brought out at the hearing that the firm contemplated employing samplemakers and probably cutters. We further suspected that the firm's object was to get rid of its workers and engage a contractor on

(Continued on Page 2)

### DUBINSKY ON BRIEF ORGANIZATION TOUR IN CANADA

**Addresses Meeting of Dressmakers in Toronto and Confers With Toronto and Montreal Joint Boards**

Secretary-Treasurer David Dubinsky left last Monday, June 9, on a brief organization tour in Canada. On Tuesday evening he addressed a mass meeting of dressmakers in Toronto. On Wednesday evening he conferred with the Toronto Joint Board, and the next evening with the Montreal Joint Board. He is expected to be back in New York on Saturday.

### Dress Contractors Ass'n Made To Resume Adjustment Work

**Association Refuses to Supply Clerks, But Vigorous Action by General Manager Hochman Brings About Quick Change of Front.**

Thanks to the vigorous action of Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Dress Joint Board, a serious violation of the Union's agreement with the various employers' groups by the contractors' association was quickly squelched, and the association was taught a lesson as to the sacredness of contracts that it will not soon forget.

It came about this way: On Monday, June 2, the Association of Dress Manufacturers, Inc. (the contractors' organization), refused to supply clerks to accompany representatives of the Dress Joint Board bent on the adjustment of routine complaints. As ground for its refusal it cited the continued existence of a stoppage at the shop of the Monitor Dress Co., 356 West 34th Street.

Immediately upon learning of the Association's action, General Manager Hochman sent a strong letter of protest to that body, charging it with

having abrogated the terms of the agreement. And so effective did the letter prove that the Association underwent a quick change of heart and the following morning supplied the necessary clerks, thereby enabling the machinery of adjustment to be set in motion again.

According to General Manager Hochman, the workers of the Monitor shop had been locked out. The Association, on the other hand, contended that the workers had illegally gone on strike. But the point made by Brother Hochman in his protest to the Association was that, regardless of the merits of any particular dispute, the Association had no right to discontinue the machinery of adjustment.

Moreover, as Brother Hochman pointed out to a reporter who interviewed him, in every dispute the Impartial Chairman has the final authority and the Association had, therefore, no right to take matters into its own hands.



## Doings Among The Philadelphia Cloak and Skirt Makers

By SIMON DAVIDSON, Secretary Philadelphia Joint Board

### A Case of Sour Grapes

S. Kolinsky, one of our jobbers, thought it would be advisable to catch the union in a snag. Well, he had another guess coming. This jobber registered two of our union contractors and promised to supply them with work. He carried out this promise for a time, then he began to discriminate against one of the contractors on a false pretext and gave work to a non-union and non-registered shop. Our office staff investigated and found that complaint against the Blaustein contractor was unjust.

A stoppage of work was thereupon ordered in both registered contractor shops. The jobber, realizing the predicament he was in, tried to get out of it and claimed he gave the other contractor only a few garments, but we know it was a case of sour grapes.

### Executive Board of Local 68 Has a Social Gathering

On Monday, May 26, the Executive Board of our Finisher Local together with other active members of the Local, as well as M. Levin, Chairman of our Joint Board, and M. Domskey of the Office Staff, had a special executive meeting and social gathering.

One of the objects was to discuss the problem of how to interest the finishers to come to their local meetings. Our Finisher Local is largely a young women's organization and it certainly is perplexing to see their lack of interest in the local meetings, while at shop meetings their interest and attendance is keen and punctual.

If we survey fraternal and charitable organizations, we note that the auxiliaries of young and older women are the most ardent workers, constantly bringing new life into their organizations. So we believe a new era must be ushered into Local 69. A number of new schemes will be devised and as soon as the new season commences, they will be put in practice.

### The Sick Benefit Fund

The Sick Fund in Local 69 has existed for over fifteen years now and works splendidly. Members receive the sum of \$6.00 per week for six weeks in a period of six months. It is understood that to be entitled to this benefit, a member must be in good standing.

Of late this fund has been depleted due to the furriers who are now part of Local 69. The furriers are for the most part elderly men and consequently are more susceptible to diseases. Therefore, a plan is under consideration to strengthen the Sick Fund. We expect that all members will help this worthy cause at the proper time.

### Local 69 Emergency Fund

Women are all alike the world over. Their mission is to bring joy and happiness to mankind and to succor the poor and sick. This is also true of the ladies of Local 69. The Local has evolved an Emergency Fund to help those sick who have overdrawn their sick benefit, or to help the families of these distressed members. To this end, a tax of \$2.00 per annum is levied on all members. This tax is paid semi-annually. Recently, when this fund was inaugurated, a great festival was held. Some shops pledged over \$100 to this fund. By the end of the year this fund will be the most practical one in our entire organization.

### Old Age Security in Our Organization

We are now embarking on a voyage of Old Age Security. Needless to say, this great social question has many delicate angles to it that must

be taken into consideration. Probably the prime angle is the age question. Our economists and efficiency engineers are at variance on this matter. Some claim that the age of 60 is the retiring age, while others claim 65 and even 70 years should be considered the retiring age. Nevertheless, the States of Montana, Wisconsin, Massachusetts and California have already adopted this law to help those who have created wealth for their states. Recently New York has fallen in line, while some European countries have adopted the age of 60 as a retiring age. It is hardly possible to apply this last age as a measure to our industry. First, our workers are most efficient and productive between the ages of 35 and 50, with a gradually declining productivity. Second, we can't do it for lack of newcomers in our industry. Thus it would cause an increase in overtime work in this high seasonal trade, which we desire to keep at the present rate of overtime.

### Nazareth, Pa. Hosiery Strikers Ask Our Aid

The Nazareth Hosiery Workers are on strike for the last six months, protesting against the "peonage" and "yellow dog" contracts which the Kramer Hosiery Mills inflicted upon them. We are advised that the Kramer mill does most of its business with the New Process Co. of Warren, Pa. and the A. S. Beck Shoe Corporation of New York and their chain stores.

Our organization has gone on record protesting against such un-American policies and sent Resolutions to these concerns while our officers will inform the Philadelphia Branch of A. B. Beck Shoe Corp. of the existing strife. At the same time, cheer and support will be given the strikers.

### BALTIMORE ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN MAKING RAPID PROGRESS

The organization campaign conducted by the Cloakmakers' Union of Baltimore is making progress, and new members are constantly joining the union. Recently Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky came to Baltimore and addressed a meeting of the organization committee and active members. Vice-President Jacob Halpern is in charge of the Baltimore drive. The International has appointed Brother Schneider, of Local 17, to assist Vice-President Halpern. In addition it has assigned Brother Martin, who is a cutter, to do organization work among the Baltimore cutters.

### COMMUNIST CLOAK STRIKE IN SAN FRANCISCO A FIZZLE

The Communist scabbery has met with another defeat, this time in far-off San Francisco. The Communists declared a strike against Lerner Bros., a cloak-manufacturing firm in that city. Naturally, the bone fide cloak-makers—i.e., the members of the International—refused to join in the walkout, and as a result the strike proved a fizzle. Growing desperate, the Communists hired thugs to beat up our workers; but even this proved futile. Two of the thugs were sentenced to fifteen days imprisonment, while a third is awaiting trial. At present the Lerner Bros. shop is 100 per cent union.

## With The PHILADELPHIA WAIST & DRESSMAKERS

By Vice President ELIAS HEISBERG

Philadelphia.—The new Executive Board began functioning right after the installation, about which I wrote in the last issue of "Justice." Its first meeting was held one week after the installation and the following standing committees were elected:

Finance Committee,  
Membership Committee,  
Board of Directors,  
Educational Committee.

I will dwell on the Board of Directors and Educational Committee, for their object, besides attending to the routine work of the Union's everyday problems, is to busy themselves with strengthening the Union, organizing and preparing the forces for the organization so that the Union shall function properly and exercise sufficient influence.

The Board of Directors, for example, is also the Union's organization committee, occupying itself with plans for organizing the open shops. Now that the spring season is about to end, the time is ripe to make preparations for work in the organizational field and the first meeting of the Board was spent discussing plans toward this end.

The Educational Committee concerns itself with the social, educational and recreational problems of our members and at present it is mak-

ing every effort to make the summer interesting both socially and educationally.

A beginning was made and a very successful one. That was last week when about thirty members went to Forest Park—the International's Unity House—to spend the Decoration Day week-end. The three days are altogether memorable and now the Educational Committee is planning some interesting activities for the 4th of July.

The other Committees and the Executive Board as a whole are taking up the problems of the Union in a very earnest and sincere manner. By their interest and devotion it is expected that this term of the Executive Board will be successful in all respects.

### ASHBES ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER OF CLOAK JOINT BOARD

M. J. Ashbes, of Local 2, was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the New York Cloak and Skirt Joint Board at the regular meeting of that body on May 28, 1930.

Brother Ashbes succeeds Vice-President Harry Wander, who held the post during the past two years and a half.

## Ingersoll Upholds Union's Claim

(Continued from page 1)  
its premises and thus be enabled to employ a new set of workers.

After the hearing, the Impartial Chairman rendered the following decision:

May 28, 1930.

A hearing was held in this case on May 22nd, 1930, before a Trial Board consisting of Mr. Maxwell Copelof, representing the Merchants Association; Mr. Isidore Nagler, representing the Joint Board, and Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, acting as Chairman.

The Merchants Association complained that the Union had refused to recognize as one of its members a firm which had recently left the Industrial Council and that it had been picketing the firm's premises.

The firm explained that it had definitely decided to give up manufacturing and go into jobbing. The firm had been partly reorganized by the dropping out of one of its members. The change was made between seasons and before the fall sample line had been made up.

The Union complained that during the last few weeks garments were made up outside at a time when the shop was not busy. Investigation shows this to have been a fact. The firm's explanation that these garments were made up very cheaply and sold at a great sacrifice in liquidating the business, as an alternative to selling the remaining piece goods, seems to apply to some of the garments and is

to be taken into consideration. It does not, however, dispose of the entire matter as there were also garments of a better grade which might more reasonably have been made by the inside workers.

Business changes such as have occurred in the case of this firm take place from time to time in this industry. They have regrettable features affecting the workers but cannot always be avoided.

The Trial Board is of the opinion that the firm has a right to belong to the Merchants Association provided it has genuinely given up manufacturing. Its membership, however, will be subject to the following conditions:

1. To liquidate the Union's grievance a sum of money must be paid to the Union on behalf of the workers equivalent to one-half week's pay for all regular employees.

2. The firm must refrain from employing cutters or samplemakers.

3. If at any time during the existing agreement, it should employ workers, there must be a full complement and positions in the shop must first be offered to the former workers.

The Union is to recognize the firm's membership in the Merchants Association and to desist from picketing.

### THE TRIAL BOARD,

By RAYMOND V. INGERSOLL,

Chairman.

The amount of compensation to the workers, in accordance with the decision, will amount to \$2,000.00.

## Attention, Members of Local No. 22!

All the members of the Dressmakers Union, Local No. 22 are cordially invited to attend the official opening of our new office at 60 West 35th Street, this Saturday, June 14, 1930, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

This invitation is not limited to any particular group but is intended for the entire membership of our local union, irrespective of race, sex, or nationality.

Refreshments will be served.

JOSEPH SPIELMAN, Secretary.

## WITH THE Cloak & Skirt JOINT BOARD NEW YORK

(By HARRY WANDER,  
Secretary-Treasurer)

A regular meeting of the Joint Board Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Union, Locals 2, 3, 9, 10, 17, 21, 23, 35, 48, 64 and 82, I. L. G. W. U., was held Wednesday, May 21, 1930, 7:30 P. M., at the International Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street. Chairman: William Bloom.

The Joint Board minutes of May 14, are read and approved. . . .

### Board of Directors' Report

The Board of Directors submits the following report:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held Monday, May 19, 1930, 7:30 P. M., at the office of the I. L. G. W. U., 3 West 16th Street. Chairman: Philip Ansel.

Brother Sorkin, Manager of the Industrial Council Department, submits a written report of the activities of his department from February 1st to May 15, 1930. He supplements his report by stating that the strike against Ben Ginsberg Co., Inc., and Wolf, Rubens & Sheinberg are in progress. He states also that the Merchants' Association brought the case of Wolf, Rubens & Sheinberg before the impartial Chairman and a hearing will be held Thursday, May 22nd.

Upon motion, Brother Sorkin's report is approved, with the understanding that copies of his general report be forwarded to each local.

Brother Nagler reports that he communicated with the General office regarding the investigation of the dress shops where coats and ensembles are made. This investigation was to start last Wednesday and he requested that they see to it that same is begun without any further delay. Subsequently, he received a letter from Brother Hochman together with a list of cloak shops, which he wanted to be investigated and requested that the investigation be started today. Brother Nagler complied with Brother Hochman's request and today the investigation was started.

He reports further that the injunction papers against the jobber, Joseph Stein, will be signed tomorrow, after which the parties involved will be served with copies.

He reports also that the jobber, Siegel Bros., was again found sending work to Eakin, a non-union firm located in Camden, N. J., and as a result the jobber was fined with \$2,500.

Brother Nagler reports also that arrangements have been made to re-

new the strike activities against Shapiro & Sons. He states, however, that although the locals promised to advance some money to the Joint Board for the purpose of conducting the strike, only Locals 2 and 10 paid. Locals 9 and 48 promised to send in their checks tomorrow, while Local 35 is yet to be heard from.

He reports further that a few months ago, the firm of Maurice Bandler applied to the Industrial Council for the privilege of reorganizing its factory force, claiming that certain business conditions make this step imperative. Since then, Brothers Sorkin and Rubin, the latter the Manager of Local 3, have been negotiating with the firm in an effort to avoid the reorganization. So far, they have failed to reach a conclusion and the case will have to be given most careful consideration.

In conclusion, Brother Nagler reports that he attained an informal gathering at the office of Morris Hillquit, at which representatives of the different branches of the labor movement were present. It was then decided to call a representative conference of labor, liberal and socialist groups to consider the possibility of building up the broadcasting station WEVD into an effective and powerful station for the service of the labor movement. Subsequently, Brother Nagler received a letter inviting the Joint Board to designate its representatives to attend the conference, which will be held Tuesday evening, May 27th, 8 o'clock, at the Council Room of the International. He suggests, therefore, that the Joint Board designate such representatives.

Brother Nagler's report is taken up for discussion.

Brother Perimutter states that he was informed that there is a possibility of settling the strike against Shapiro & Sons if the Union will agree to a slight reorganization of the firm's factory force and he suggests that this matter be given due consideration.

After a lengthy discussion in which Brothers Heller, Ansel, Student, Dubinsky, Berman and Kirtzman participated, it was decided to postpone action on this matter until next Monday.

In the case of Maurice Bandler it was decided, after a thorough discussion, to refer the matter to the office.

Upon motion, Brother Nagler's report is approved as a whole.

Upon motion, the Board of Directors' report is approved.

Following the adoption of the Board of Directors' report, Brother Nagler and the Chairman, William Bloom, are elected to represent the Joint Board at the conference called on behalf of the broadcasting station WEVD, which will be held Tuesday, May 27. . . .

### General Manager's Report

Brother Nagler reports that the strikes against Shapiro & Sons, Wolf, Rubens & Sheinberg, and Ben Ginsberg Co., Inc., are still in progress. The cases of Wolf, Rubens & Sheinberg and Ben. Ginsberg Co., Inc. will come up before the impartial Chairman tomorrow. He reports also that the shop of Rosenberg Bros., a non-union firm, was stopped off last week and is still on strike.

He reports also that the decision rendered by the Court in the case of the Jobber, Joseph Stein, had a very good effect upon the market and as a result the jobbers are now reluctant about dealing with non-union firms.

He reports further that the Governor's Commission had a meeting this afternoon at which President Schlesinger, Chairman William Bloom, in addition to himself, were present. The question about non-union production and outright buying were gone over most carefully and the Commission adopted resolutions in connection with it, copies of which will be forwarded to all contractual parties.

The dispute between the American and the Merchants' Associations, regarding the adoption of a standard minimum cost of production, was brought up there and the Commission was requested to take a hand in the matter. A report on the Brooklyn situation was also submitted and the Commission requested all factors to cooperate in an effort to elevate the

standards prevailing in the Brooklyn shops.

The Commission also decided to call in the near future a conference of retailers for the purpose of getting their cooperation as a way of barring non-union products from the market.

In conclusion it was decided that another meeting of the Commission be held within one month and that every organization be requested to submit their recommendations and suggestions to that meeting.

Upon motion, Brother Nagler's report is approved.

The meeting is then adjourned.

## LABOR NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

### INSTALL 5-DAY WEEK

Worcester, Mass.—Organized Carpenters are working on the five-day week basis. This action was taken under instructions by a referendum vote of the five local Carpenters' Unions.

### MILK DRIVERS UNITE

Philadelphia.—More than 100 milk drivers organized and received a charter from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

### IDLENESS HARMS MORALE

New York.—The tragedy of unemployment lies in its devastating effect upon the morale of idle workers, said Whiting Williams, author and lecturer on industrial problems, in an address to a convention of business women.

### VOTE ON 6-HOUR DAY

St. Louis.—More than 18,000 organized building craftsmen in this city will vote on the six-hour day as a means of reducing unemployment. The vote will be taken under direction of the Building Trades Council.

### WORLD DEPRESSION SHOWN BY REPORTS

Washington.—Business depression is world-wide, according to the Department of Commerce. Virtually without exception the government's trade commissioners in Asia, Europe, Latin America and elsewhere report a prevailing dullness of business conditions.

### WHAT TO READ

Before our members decide what to read we advise them to visit our Educational Department which is always ready to assist them in selecting their books and always purchasing them at a minimum cost. This service, initiated by our Educational Department for the last twelve years, is highly appreciated by our members.

### LOCAL 35 TO GIVE FAREWELL DINNER TO MGR. J. BRESLAW

Sickness in His Family Makes it Necessary for Brother Breslaw to Leave New York Temporarily and Go to Los Angeles

Joseph Breslaw, International Vice-President and Manager of the Pressers' Union, Local 35, who finds it necessary to give up his official activities temporarily and go to Los Angeles on account of sickness in his family, will be tendered a farewell dinner by his Local on Saturday evening, June 14, at Beethoven Hall.

Brother Breslaw has been connected with Local 35 for fourteen years, but now he is compelled to leave the local for at least six months and go with his family to Los Angeles at the advice of physicians. It is expected that a large number of Local 35 members will attend the dinner.

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TELEPHONE ORCHARD 6000

### VICE-PRES. FEINBERG NAMED MANAGER OF BOSTON JOINT BOARD

Replaces Vice-President Amdur, Who Is Ill

President Schlesinger recently appointed Vice-President Israel Feinberg manager of the Boston Joint Board in place of Vice-President Amdur, who is ill. President Schlesinger went to Boston with Brother Feinberg in order to introduce him to our Boston members and to help organize the work there.

A joint executive meeting of all the Boston locals was held, at which President Schlesinger and Vice-President Feinberg were present, and at which important organization plans were drawn up. The large attendance and the enthusiasm at the meeting gave clear evidence of the rejuvenation of the Boston Cloak and Dressmakers' Union.

Recently Vice Presidents Salvatore Nino and Joseph Breslaw addressed large and enthusiastic meetings of cloakmakers in Boston.



## JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

**A Just Decision  
Which Should Have  
Gone Further Yet**

manufacturers that the Union will not permit itself to be taken in by them but will stand on its rights.

The aforesaid firm, which had been a member of the Industrial Council, discharged its workers several weeks ago, declaring that it was going into the jobbing business and would join the jobbers' association, known officially as the Merchants' Association. But the Union objected to this on the ground that the firm had not given due notice to the workers of its intentions to give up its shop and become a jobber. The Union contended that this was proof that the firm was seeking by a subterfuge to evade its obligations to its workers. Accordingly the Union filed a complaint against Wolf, Rubens & Scheinberg with the Industrial Council, charging the firm with failure to live up to the terms of its agreement with the Union and with sending out work at a time when the workers in its own shop did not have enough work. And when the matter under dispute was referred to the Impartial Chairman, the Union gave three grounds for its complaint: First, that the firm had not notified its workers in time that it was giving up its shop, with the result that the latter did not know they must look for work elsewhere. Second, that, even before becoming a jobber, the firm had given work to contractors and allowed its own workers to go without work. Thirdly, that the firm did not intend to abandon its shop altogether but contemplated the employment of sample makers and perhaps also cutters.

The Impartial Chairman decided that the Union was right and that the firm must pay its workers a certain amount of money by way of reparation; that it must, furthermore, refrain from employing any cutters or sample makers; and, finally, that if it should open another cloak shop at any time during the life of the existing agreement, it must reinstate its former workers.

It must be said that the reparation which the Impartial Chairman has ordered the firm to pay to its workers is too scanty. The firm is to pay all its regular employees half a week's wages, or about two thousand dollars in all. Yet the workers have sustained an incomparably greater loss. We will not dwell upon the fact that the workers lost their positions at a time when it is hard to find other jobs, because there is a ready answer to this, namely, that it is one of the evils of the trade. But the firm should at least have been decent enough to give its workers notice betimes that it was giving up its shop, so that they might at once have begun to look for jobs elsewhere. And it was particularly heartless of Wolf, Rubens & Scheinberg to deprive their workers of the work which they were in duty bound to give them work so long as they continued their shop. At least these manufacturers should have given their workers what was due them before they rendered them jobless altogether. And the work which the firm sent out to a contractor belonged of right to the workers employed in its shop. The firm should therefore have been sentenced to pay its workers a much larger sum by way of reparation for the loss it has caused them. However, the Union may derive some satisfaction from the fact that through the decision of the Impartial chairman the manufacturers have been reminded that they have certain duties toward their employees and certain responsibilities to the Union with which they have signed a contract.

The Union does not try to place obstacles in the way of a manufacturer who wishes to become a jobber, although it knows very well that this is one of the greatest misfortunes to the cloak trade, and although it likewise knows very well that in many cases the change from manufacturing to jobbing is merely a camouflage for evading the direct control of the Union. But no matter how much the Union may dislike the jobbing system, it nevertheless lives up to the terms of the agreement it has signed, and so it has the right to demand that the manufacturers keep their end of the bargain.

The Union cannot always prove black on white that a manufacturer has cheated his employees, although it may be fully convinced that he has. Hence, it is not always easy for the Union to obtain from the Impartial Chairman a decision against a manufacturer that it has filed a complaint against. This time the Union had such clear and convincing evidence against the accused firm that there could be no doubt about the latter's guilt. It was established that the firm had garments made up outside

at a time when the workers of its own shop were but partly employed. Thus by its action the firm had caused losses to its employees, and he who causes a loss ought to pay damages. Herein lies the significance of the decision handed down by the Impartial Chairman.

Those manufacturers who cheat the Union and their workers will do well to bear this in mind. When a manufacturer sends out work to a contractor at a time when his employees do not have enough work to do, he has not only violated his agreement with the Union, for which he deserves to be penalized on general principles, but he has, by this illegal action of his, caused a direct loss to his workers: he has deprived them of the opportunity to earn wages upon which they are dependent for their livelihoods. And he who causes a loss ought to make restitution. Accordingly, we say that the Union may be satisfied with the decision insofar as the decision establishes the wholly just principle that a manufacturer must pay his workers for the loss he causes them. This is not a fine, but only compensation. But the Union must insist that the compensation be in proportion to the extent of the loss which the manufacturer has caused to his workers. When the manufacturer knows that if he illegally sends out work to contractors and leaves the workers of his own shop without work, he will, for every day he has deprived his workers of employment, have to pay them the full amount of the loss he has caused them,—when he knows that, he will think twice before running the risk.

**The Road That Has  
Led the Communist  
Union Wreckers  
To Their Downfall**

The Communist union-wreckers of the needle trades have gathered in New York for a convention, at which they will consider new ways and means for carrying on their union-disrupting and treacherous activities among the workers of the needle trades.

However, they have not assembled with happy hearts. True, they can boast that they have done a great deal of undermining and wrecking. They brought demoralization wherever they gained a foothold; yet in the end they were driven out of the unions and to-day they can merely scab against the organized workers and betray them in time of struggle, but they cannot mislead them.

Ben Gitlow, who was the trade union expert among the American Communists until he was excommunicated from the Communist Church along with the other old Communist leaders, contributes an article to the last issue of Revolutionary Age, organ of the expelled Lovestone Communists, wherein he sums up the dismal result of the activities of the Trade Union Unity League, the Communist union-wrecking organization.

Gitlow states the following facts in his article: The National Miners' Union, of which the Communist union-wreckers used to boast so much, now hardly exists at all. At the last Plenum of the Communist Party it was reported that the "vast" National Miners' Union, which embraces "all" the mine workers in the country, numbers 400 members. However, we must purge its ranks of the left-wing Trotskyists and the right-wing Lovestonians and then count the members anew. Besides, even the figure 400 must be taken with a grain of salt, because figures that emanate from the Communist Party have never been noted for accuracy.

Things are no better with the Communist National Textile Workers' Union, which for a while made quite a stir. We remember the stormy strikes in Passaic, in New Bedford, in Fall River, and lastly, in Gastonia. But now this union shows no more signs of life than a doornail. In New Bedford, Gitlow relates, the Communist Textile Workers' Union once had four thousand members; but now it has barely two hundred members in that city.

The Independent Shoe Workers' Union, which already attained a membership of five thousand, to-day does not have even two hundred members.

The left-wing Amalgamated Food Workers' Union was recently split by the Communists themselves when they began to lose their control over it. But the result of the split is that the Communists have lost the union altogether. Of the five thousand members the Communists have barely lured away five hundred.

The Window Cleaners' Union, which used to be wholly under Communist control, is now absolutely clear of Communists. The Communists have met with the same fate in the Structural Iron Workers' Union.

What has happened in the case of the cloak and dressmakers, there is no need for Gitlow to tell us. We know it better than he. Here we will merely quote what he tells about the leadership of the Communists Needle Trades Union. The better leaders and workers have been eliminated and a regime of bossism established such as even the most conservative American unions have never dreamt of. Every vestige of democracy has been destroyed and the members have no say in the affairs of the Union.

But about the Communist Needle Trades Union we have heard a thing or two from the Communist Party itself, when it was to its interest to tell the truth. The Party has told us how

# From Time To Time

By Dr. B. Hoffman (Zivyon)

Investigating committees ought to invent some device for making decisions that shall be satisfactory to all parties. In saying this I have particularly in mind the investigating committees of the labor movement which have been so active of late.

In normal times there was no need in our unions of special investigating committees of outsiders recruited from the labor movement. Whenever there was need of investigating, our unions took care of it themselves. But these are not normal times. Our unions have passed through very trying days. The Communist plague virtually ruined them. By herculean efforts and with the aid of the Socialist movement they have just gotten on their feet again and must employ all ways and means to secure and fortify their existence. And one way to fortify the unions is to win for them the full confidence of the workers and to safeguard them as far as possible against internal dissensions and mutual distrust among the members.

And in the present situation it is very easy to create mistrust, suspicion, etc. There still survives among the members a tragic heritage from the days when the Communists lorded it over our unions. Under such circumstances it is more convenient, better, and wiser to enlist the aid of prominent figures of the labor movement who command respect and confidence.

No one should really object to this. For in emergencies our unions always seek the aid of the Socialist movement, the Workmen's Circle, and of all other labor organization and their leaders. Unfortunately for our investigating committees, however, they generally bring in verdicts that leave one side or the other dissatisfied. And it is but natural that the dissatisfied party should protest, fret, and be angry. And when one frets and is angry, one often says foolish things.

Accordingly I suggest that some device be invented to enable investigating committees to bring in verdicts that shall please all parties.

But to protest, lose one's temper and say foolish things is not the worst of it. It is much worse when one begins to print foolish things.

When I say "foolish things," I am putting it rather mildly. However, it does not matter what the right phrase is that ought to be used here. It is the act itself that ought to be condemned in the sharpest terms. What are we to think of people who first express their willingness to abide by the decision of a committee, and then, when the decision goes against them, are ready to turn the entire union topsy-turvy? I have here in mind those members of Local 2 who lost out in the local election and later also lost out with the committee to whose decision they themselves had agreed to leave the matter.

One must know how to win, but one must likewise know how to lose; how to be a good loser. If you have lost, then "put up and shut up." The investigating committee was not prejudiced one way or the other. And

when one leaves something to the judgment of a committee, one should be decent enough to abide by its decision even though one feels one has been wronged. For, every one who loses feels that he has been wronged, since, if he believed that he had been fairly beaten, he would not have recourse to an investigating committee. Persons who can talk it into themselves that they are always the wronged ones and that they have a monopoly on honesty and justice, need not expect too much consideration from others. And if they believe they can gain control of the union by force they are sadly mistaken. Paper can stand a great deal and one can print on it worse than foolish things; but people who think of the union's interests, and not of their private grudges, don't do it.

Brother Sam Herman, of Local 23, has sent me two slates of the candidates put up in the recent election of Local 22 and in an accompanying letter he asks me many questions, chief among them being the question why such slates are tolerated in the Union. When there were left-wingers and right-wingers in the Union, he argues, there had to be slates in order to help the members know who was who; but now that the Union has been rid of Communists, what need is there of slates?

I do not know why Brother Herman has chosen to address these questions to me. I have never said that slates are necessary. On the contrary, I have always maintained that they are not. Brother Herman should therefore have addressed his questions to some one who believes that we do need slates. Perhaps such a person might have been able to answer him.

We were assured that with the coming of spring unemployment would decrease. Naturally, this was not meant to apply to the cloakmakers. In the case of the cloakmakers unemployment starts in real earnest in the spring. This spring, however, the cloakmakers have no one to envy, since it is not only they who are out of work, but millions of others as well. Spring has so far brought no amelioration to the jobless wage earners. This may also be seen from the headline in New York. It has not grown shorter. The only improvement visible is that it is easier to stand in the breadline in spring than in winter. It is not so cold to wait for one's turn.

Nor are President Hoover and the Congress in any hurry to do something to reduce the army of unemployed. Instead, Hoover and the Congress are busy preparing a high tariff for us so that commodity prices may go up and everything cost even more than at present.

The New York World has tried to paint a picture of how the new tariff that Congress is now at work upon will affect the average American citizen. The picture begins early in the morning, say, in the home of a workman or of a business man.

The alarm clock rings, summoning him to the day's work. The duty on alarm clocks, under the Grundy tariff, has been raised 50 per cent. He wakes up with a start, throws off the blanket the duty on which has been raised 20 per cent, and sets his feet down on a small rug, on which the duty has been raised 114 per cent. He dons his bathrobe, the duty on which is 10 per cent, and inserts his feet in house slippers, the duty on which is 20 per cent.

The duty on the tile in the bathroom has been raised 25 per cent. The duty on the linoleum on the kitchen floor has been raised 20 per cent. The duty on the mirror in the bathroom, in front of which he shaves, has been raised 25 per cent. The duty on the shaving brush, hair brush, and tooth brush has been raised 15 per cent. The duty on the glass he uses to rinse his mouth has been raised 10 per cent; that on the wash basin and the bath tub has likewise been raised 10 per cent, and that on the sponge, 100 per cent.

He now proceeds to dress. The duty on the shirt has been raised 23 per cent; that on necktie, 8 per cent, and that on the suit of clothes, 10 per cent. The new duty on the shoes is 20 per cent; on the handkerchief, 10 per cent, and on the wash-broom, 66 per cent.

If you wear spectacles, you must include a 10 per cent duty on your eyeglasses.

It's now time to eat breakfast. But we need not go into details about that. There is an increased duty on everything—on the pots, on the plates, on the cups and glasses, on the spoons, forks and knives, and on the food beginning with the fruit and ending with the butter and eggs and coffee. In short, one may say that the Grundy tariff raises the duty on everything that begins with an A—a spoon, a pot, a fork, a loaf of bread, a pair of shoes, a hat, etc. etc.

One would expect Tom and Dick to cry out in protest. But Tom and Dick don't realize that the money paid in higher duties under the Grundy tariff will come out of their pockets, and so they keep quiet. And since they keep quiet, they deserve not only to be fleeced, but skinned.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court that it is unlawful to sell liquor, but not to buy it, will have no practical effect upon the enforcement of the prohibition law. It only the Government could stop the sale of liquor, it would be unnecessary to stop its purchase. If there were no bootleggers in the United States to sell liquor, there would be none to buy it from.

But in general it makes no difference what the Supreme Court rules concerning prohibition, since in this matter no one obeys it anyhow. All I can conclude from the decision of the Supreme Court is that the prohibition law was not drafted by God Himself, as the leaders of the Prohibitionists have assured us. For, if the Lord Himself had written the prohibition law, He would surely not have framed it so as to enable the Supreme Court to rule that the law prohibits only the manufacture and sale of liquor, but not its purchase. God, Who knoweth all things beforehand, would surely have provided Himself with such a law that even the Supreme Court would have been unable to read anything into it or out of it.

But possibly it is the plans, Prohi-

## LAST CALL FOR STUDENTS FOR BARNARD SUMMER SCHOOL

On Monday, June 30, Barnard Summer School for Women Workers in Industry will open. Already there is a larger registration than Barnard has ever had before, but there are still a few vacancies and members of the I. L. G. W. U. are always welcome students in the Industrial Summer Schools. Anybody wanting further information should get in touch with Lucile Kohn, 65 East 86th Street, as soon as possible.

bitonists who represent the Lord as being so cruel. In reality it may well be that God is not so cruel and does not care at all if a man take a drink—if he can get one.

What is the American standard of living for a working man? This is the subject of an article in the June American Federationist, and the conclusion reached is that, according to the researches and estimates of well known American economists, a workman in New York needs \$65 a week in order to keep up the American standard of living. But inasmuch as there are few wage earners in New York who work 52 weeks a year, since in most industries there are times during the year when there is little work, or no work at all, a workman in New York ought to earn more than \$65 a week in the weeks that he does work. Obviously, it is impossible to take each worker separately and find out how many weeks in the year he is employed and how many he is not. Accordingly, an average income must be sought, and according to the records of the American Federation of Labor, 14 percent of the worker's earnings are lost through unemployment. On this basis a wage worker in New York must earn \$76 a week when he is employed in order to average \$65 a week for the entire year.

How many cloakmakers, I wonder, are there in New York who earn \$3,400 a year, or an average of \$65 a week?

It follows, therefore, that the American standard of living, about which we hear so much, was not made for cloakmakers. But, then, was it made for any other wage workers?

The professors who have tried to compute how much a worker must earn in order to be able to keep up an American standard of living took into consideration the cost of living in various localities. In New York, living expenses are higher than anywhere else. It costs less to live in Chicago, and still less in Reading, etc. But what good are all these calculations, seeing that the workers of New York do not even earn as much as it takes to live in Reading?

The same professors who have figured out how much a workingman ought to make in order to be able to maintain an American standard of living have likewise estimated that there are now forty million persons in the United States who cannot live according to the American standard. That means that the great majority of American wage workers earn less than is required for a decent living, which is what the American standard of living really means. In other words, the American standard of living was not made for American wage workers.

the leadership of that union hired gangsters, hobnobbed with the police and was on very friendly terms with Tammany. We know that the Communist Party has revealed all that in order to hurt the reputation of its former leaders, who are now in the opposition. That, however, merely shows how low the Communists have sunk, but it does not alter the facts, for we know they are true. We know that the Communists union-wreckers were in alliance with the underworld, hired gangsters, and received protection from Tammany Hall.

And now the union-wreckers of the needle trades are met in convention for the purpose of devising new ways and means to bring demoralization into the ranks of organized labor. But there is no reason to fear them now. They are no longer able to lead the union workers astray. The latter know who they are and that they can expect nothing but treachery from them. The Communist union-wreckers are now isolated from organized labor. It is thanks to their own efforts that they have been removed from the camp like lepers.



# Labor Versus Machines: An Employment Puzzle

By WILLIAM GREEN  
President, American Federation of Labor

We reprint here the following very interesting and instructive article on the growing displacement of workers by machinery which President Green contributed to The New York Times of June 1, 1930.—Ed.

What we call technological unemployment is not a new thing. The history of technical progress has had its parallel in suffering and retrogression among those wage earners from whom machinery had taken opportunity to do the work upon which they relied for a living. A wage earner has to have a job in order to meet his living expenses. As his reserve margins are small, loss of his job is the shadow of the fear that is the background of labor thinking.

It is bad to lose a job, but it is a catastrophe to lose one's trade skill. When craft skill is "transferred to a machine," the craftsman is industrially bankrupt. Craft skill that was an investment of a lifetime of work goes to the industrial scrap-heap when scientists find new processes, or inventors produce new machines. Their trades are gone and, because workers must live, they seek jobs in other callings—often at lower incomes and with consequent lower standards of living.

On the other hand, technical progress means more things at lower prices and consequently more physical comforts and greater ease of living for greater numbers of people. Technical progress is the means to higher material civilization. Progress comes from change. Change means dislocation. It is a sad commentary that individual wage earners have paid the social costs of technological progress in industry.

## Change and the Worker

Even though there follows an industrial readjustment or expansion that provides employment for a greater number of people, the displaced wage earners suffer hardships through no fault of their own. Society has accepted the gain without an effort to pay its debt to the wage earners. Today our captains of industry recount with pride increases in productivity, installation of machines, new technical procedures that effect extraordinary economies and salvage former waste products. They glory in things—in technical progress, in management, in the progress of science—but what thought do they give to musicians displaced by music reproductions; to the art of the actor, forgotten in the latest movietone; to the Morse operator displaced by the teletype; to the steel worker displaced by a new process; to the carpenter watching houses assembled by units; to the printer turned out by the teletype-setter?

Such workers in thousands have been turned out without jobs, and without the possibility of future employment in the craft in which they have invested their all. Even though in a few years the industries may expand sufficiently to give employment to even more people than before, that does not solve the workers' problem—how to earn money to pay next week's rent and to buy food for hungry children tomorrow.

This is the side of the progress which workers have felt to the marrow of their bones. Samuel Gompers in his autobiography relates of the silk weavers of London a story that left an indelible imprint on his mind and life. New weaving machinery had made useless their expert craftsmanship. They walked the streets, vainly seeking work. Over and over again the child Samuel Gompers heard their

moan, "God strike me dead. I've no work and my kids are hungry, with no bread to eat." When this is the meaning of technological unemployment to wage earners, is it strange that some of these silk weavers in passion broke into the factories and smashed the new machines?

In striking contrast to the introduction of many new machines was the introduction of the linotype, replacing hand setting of type. The machine worked a revolution in the work methods of the industry and seemed destined to put all printers on the streets looking for work. However, the union, which is the repository of work experience, saw the problem developing and proposed that instead of fighting the introduction of machines they seek an opportunity to operate the linotype. This course prevailed, and the situation was met constructively. Skilled craftsmen got better results from the machines than those who knew nothing of printing could possibly have got.

There is no industry that is not making greater use of mechanical devices than it did twenty-five years ago. This means that mechanical manipulation and lifting power is replacing human skill and human lifting power. The molder who formerly made his own mold by hand and poured his own metal now uses a machine-made mold and manipulates a switch that controls the flow of his molten materials. The cigar maker formerly took special pride in the skill of his trained hand in selecting his leaves and rolling his cigar. Now he uses a machine and turns out more cigars. Cigarettes are made practically without the intervention of a human hand. Sensitive machinery selects for packing with even greater sureness than the former skilled packer.

## Change in Methods

The replacement of workers by machines has been going on ever since the beginning of the factory system. Gradually, through the years, machines have taken over work which used to be done by hand, so that if we compare present methods with those of a century and a half ago we see astonishing changes. For instance, one girl with modern spinning machinery in a textile mill, working an eight-hour day, can turn out as much yarn as an army of 45,000 with spinning wheels 150 years ago. Similar changes have occurred in other industries over this long period of time.

But the amazing thing about the last ten years is that changes affecting thousands of workers have taken place almost overnight. In some industries machines have been introduced so rapidly that in a few years' time changes have occurred comparable to a century of earlier progress. Take, for instance, the manufacture of electric light bulbs. In 1918 it took one man a whole day to make forty electric light bulbs. The next year came a machine that made 73,000 bulbs in twenty-four hours. Each of these machines threw 992 men out of work. In the boot and shoe industry 100 machines take the place of 25,000 men. In the manufacture of razor blades one man can now turn out 32,000 blades in the same time needed for 500 in 1912.

## In Automobile Plants

In automobile factories similar changes have taken place. In a Middle Western State today a huge machine turns out completed automobiles

frames almost untouched by the human hand. About 200 men are needed to supervise this vast machine, and they turn out between 7,000 and 9,000 frames a day. Compare this with a well-known automobile plant in Central Europe where the same number of men are making automobile frames by older methods. They turn out thirty-five frames a day. In steel blast furnaces seven men now do the work of sixty in casting pig iron; and even in the last three years, since 1926, the improvements in technical processes have reduced the necessary work force in the Bessemer process by 24 per cent. In machine shops one man with a "gang" of semi-automatic machines replaces twenty-five skilled mechanics. Thirty workers with ten machines can now do the work of 249 in the Sun Tube Corporation machine shop. These examples could be multiplied indefinitely.

But, you may say, these are after all only instances from a few of our many industries. Has the change really been so great as to affect our whole industrial system? Yes, it has. The illustrations given above are typical of a process which has been happening throughout American industry today at an amazing rate of speed. The rate of change in the last ten years has been so rapid that developments which were formerly spread over a half century or more now take place in a few years' time. We have figures which show what has happened since 1899 and what this change means to wage earners.

## Production and Employment.

Take the record for all manufacturing industry in the United States. In the decade from 1899 to 1909 production increased 59 per cent. Improved machinery played some part in this increase, but it was largely made possible by taking on more wage earners, for the number of wage earners employed by our factories increased 40 per cent from 1899 to 1909—that is, 1,903,000 more wage earners were taken on to bring about this 59 per cent increase in production. (Figures from Census Monograph, "The Growth of Manufactures," United States Bureau of Census.) Similarly in the decade from 1909 to 1919, production increased 35 per cent and employment 38 per cent. Increased production was made possible by employing 2,481,000 more wage earners. This meant jobs for nearly 2,500,000 more men and women.

Now in the decade from 1919 to 1929 developments took an entirely different turn. Production increased as before, so that our plants were turning out 42 per cent more in 1929 than in 1919. But this increase was made possible without any increase in the number of wage earners employed. Employment actually decreased 7 per cent from 1919 to 1929. Forty-two per cent more goods were produced with 585,000 fewer workers. This general increase was made possible by the introduction of new machinery and modern methods of manufacture. Increasing production, instead of creating more work, actually took away 585,000 jobs. (Figures from Federal Reserve Board and United States Census of Manufacturing.)

The producing power of the average wage earner increased 11 per cent in the twenty years from 1899 to 1919; but in the short space of ten years from 1919 to 1929 (half as long) it increased 53 per cent. (Figures from

Federal Reserve Board and United States Census of Manufacturing.)

These great changes have so limited the number of wage earners needed in our manufacturing industries that men and women are forced to walk the streets, looking for work. To be sure, some jobs are created in the service industries, where employment has been increasing in the last decade, but these are not nearly enough to make up for the changes in manufacturing.

Although technological unemployment is no new story, the rate at which technical progress has come in the last twenty-five years makes displacement of workers a very different problem. The rapidity and the scope of scientific progress has made technical procedure practically fluid. The period of recent economic prosperity made it possible for industries to install the newest machinery and the newest processes without hesitation. Abundance of capital facilitated the development of new industries.

These new industries helped to absorb workers released by older industries. But some of the new industries, particularly automobiles, are most unstable and have by far the highest fluctuation in payrolls of all industries.

## A Growing Labor Problem

During June, 1929, industrial production in the United States reached a new record peak. Even this stupendous output failed to supply employment to all seeking work. The records of the American Federation of Labor showed 9 per cent unemployment among trade union workers during that period of record-breaking production. In the summer of 1927 the Federation had been sensitive to recurring reports of unemployment from all parts of the country and instituted a system of monthly reports from the local unions of twenty-four industrial centers. The summary of these records is an interesting document. We are satisfied that the sustained high rate reflects, among other forces, unemployment due to mechanization of industry.

Nearly one-third of the wage earners in the United States depend on manufacturing industries for their jobs. Our wage-earner population is increasing while jobs in manufacturing industry decrease. Since 1919, the normal increase in population means over 5,500,000 more persons who want work as wage earners, while jobs in manufacturing have decreased by 585,000. Thus we need more than 6,000,000 new jobs.

The "newer" industries, such as gasoline stations and automobile repair shops, barber shops and beauty parlors, hotels and restaurants, have given work to some of this army of job seekers, for employment has been increasing in these lines. Professional work has also been increasing. There are more teachers, doctors, dentists, oculists. But all these new industries put together have not been nearly enough to take care of the 6,000,000 who want work. A recent study of 754 persons laid off from manufacturing plants shows that only 15 per cent were able to find work in these "newer" industries.

## The Hardships Involved

Also there is the problem of job adjustment. For a man laid off in a steel mill where new machinery has just been installed cannot go tomorrow and take up work as a barber, and he certainly is not prepared for the professions. Even in hotel and restaurant work and in gasoline stations, where less training is required, there are new skills to be learned, and

(Continued on page 7)



## WITH THE DRESS & WAIST JOINT BOARD NEW YORK

By ANTONINO CRIVELLO  
Secretary-Treasurer

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union of Greater New York, I. L. G. W. U., was held on Wednesday, May 21st, 1930, at the International, 3 W. 16th St. Chairman: Brother I. Wasilievsky.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Joint Board and the report of the Board of Directors, are read, discussed, and approved. The Report of the Board of Directors' meeting of May 19 follows. That meeting was presided over by Brother Benj. Erry.

A communication from the Impartial Chairman, Dr. N. I. Stone, is read. This refers to our contribution to the expenses of his office and contains his statement of receipts and disbursements up to the present time.

The above is referred to the office. Brother M. Stoller, Manager of the Affiliated Department, reports the following:

**Gottlieb & Spar**—The cutter of this firm was laid off two weeks ago and my Department was informed that the above firm intended to become jobbers. As a result of long negotiations with us, the firm finally agreed to start to operate the shop again with full capacity, employing only workers sent by the Union.

**Alexander & Klotz**—The newly Shop Chairman and a number of workers started a fight with each other. A shop meeting was ordered for tomorrow morning, May 20th. This case will also be referred to the Grievance committee, and the office will act in regard to the maintenance of discipline among the workers of the above shop.

The report of the Manager of the Affiliated Department is approved.

Then Brother M. Moskowitz, Manager of the Contractors' Department, reports:

**J. Berger**—Mr. Berger informed his workers that he was going out of business. As soon as my office was notified of this fact, the necessary attention was given to this case. After due consideration because of the care we took in handling this, the above changed his mind. I expect the shop to resume operation as soon as all arrangements are completed.

Brother Moskowitz further states that he has no special cases to report at present, as the activities of his Department are being centered mainly on the control.

The report of the Manager of the Contractors' Department is approved.

Brother M. Guzman, Manager of the Organization, reports that his Department has stopped a number of shops and made a number of settlements. His report is approved.

The report of the Boro Park Office is then read and referred to the office.

The Secretary-Treasurer briefly outlines the situation of the Finance Department, and his report is approved.

The final report of the evening comes from Brother Julius Hochman, General Manager.

He states that the investigation of the sample suits shops began today, and is being made by Brother Hines, Manager of Local 2 and Brother Salerno of Local 39.

That the control of the shops has also been started, and that good results are being expected.

He says that the Dues Department was opened in the Joint Board Office last week, and that it has been kept busy since.

Brother Hochman then states that the taking of the census of the locals

is soon to be completed, and that then we will be able to ascertain a system of the financing of the Joint Board.

The report of Brother Julius Hochman is approved.

This concludes the report of the Board of Directors. . . .

Then the Secretary reads an invitation to a Farewell Testimonial Dinner to be given by Local 35 in honor of their Manager, Brother J. Breslaw. It is decided to send a committee of five to participate in extending the gratitude of our Union to Brother J. Breslaw for his devotion to our Organization during his connection with us, and especially for his good services rendered to our Union during our last general strike.

### General Manager's Report

Brother Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Joint Board, then reports that the end of the season is approaching, and due to this, it is urgent to intensify all our activities.

He further informs the Board that he expects a great influx of members to come to pay their dues by the end of this week as a result of the control which was started on May 19th.

He also states that he has arranged Shop Chairman meetings of the various districts, and that a number of these meetings were well attended.

He reports that in regard to the sample suits, Brother Hines, after the initial attempt, refused to continue the investigation. That this was due to the fact that out of fifteen shops visited in two days, only two were making suits and one of these is doing this work temporarily.

At that point, Brother Benjamin Schlessinger, President of the International, informs the Board that at various occasions the General Executive Board has heard members complaining about the situation, which the above mentioned investigation is trying to do away with. He also states that this was a complaint of the manufacturers at a conference which he attended today.

After the information given by Brother Schlessinger, the report of the General Manager is approved.

Brother Harry Roth of Local 22, then makes the following statement:

"Two months ago, I was sent to this Joint Board to represent Local 22. At the elections of my local last week, I was defeated. This is my last meeting with you as a delegate, but I want to assure you that my heart remains with our beloved Organization."

Brother Roth's statement is well accepted.

The meeting is then adjourned.

## Labor Versus Machines

(Continued from page 6)

men with experience are likely to have the preference.

The problem facing those workers who are laid off from their jobs is well illustrated by the above-mentioned study, covering 754 wage earners laid off from factories in three American cities in 1928. (Study by Isador Lubin, Institute of Economics, Washington, D. C.) The study showed that it is by no means easy to find work. Of those who were able to find employment only 11.5 per cent were able to find a job in less than a month. Over 60 per cent—that is, nearly two-thirds—had been out of work for more than three months, and 32 per cent—nearly one-third—were out for six months or more. Thirty-five persons, or 5 per cent, had been out for a year.

Most of these wage earners had to support themselves and their families by drawing on their savings accounts during this long period of unemployment. Less than one-third—only 31 per cent—were able to find temporary employment of any sort. This meant serious privation and often permanently lowered living standards for their families. Children at school have to go to work at times like these; boarders must be taken in, often overcrowding the family; debts are run up at the grocer's and other stores; and savings accounts, often put by through years of sacrifice in order to give the children a chance, are drawn out and the children never have the start in life that would enable them to make something of their abilities. The study also shows that of the men who were able to find new work, nearly half—48 per cent—had to take a lower salary, meaning a further reduction in the standard of living, a further sacrifice for father and mother, and more lost opportunities for the children.

The problem of adjustment, of learning new skills in new jobs, is also well brought out by this study. Less than one-tenth of those wage earners who were laid off were able to get back again to their old jobs. Only one-third of those who found work were able even to obtain employment in the same industry. For most of them—54 per cent—the lay-off meant a complete change of work, so that old skills, learned often through years of training and experience and bringing high pay, were useless and the workers had to begin all over again at the bottom and learn a new trade at lower pay. Trained cutters in the clothing industries found work as attendants at gasoline stations, watchmen at warehouses, clerks in meat markets. A machinist was selling hosiery for a mail order house;

a skilled lathe operator was running a mixer in a cement brick plant; a licensed stationary engineer took work as caretaker in a public park; a skilled welding machine operator became a farm hand. And so the story goes.

For the older workers the problem of finding new work was far more difficult than for the younger. Fewer of the men over 45 were able to find work, and more of them were out for long periods. The price of our industrial progress is too often paid by the man over 45, who has reached just the age when his children are in their teens and his income counts most for their future.

Two very diverse policies accompany mechanization of industry. The time of the employed worker has become of much greater value and every effort is made to increase his productivity. The displaced worker is as ruthlessly scrapped as an out-of-date machine—even with less concern—for every well-managed institution has an amortization fund to provide against obsolete machines.

### Scrapping the Worker

Men who have given years of their lives to producing the products upon which the reputation of the industry rests are discharged without any consideration for what they have invested in the industry. Neither industries nor society have worked out a plan for meeting either separate or joint indebtedness to workers who lose that society may gain.

A dismissal wage, to help absorb the "shock" is paid by some few industries, but this is not adequate to meet the problem of readjustment. Organized labor is the spokesman for these victims of the progress of industrial technology. We urge as a program for meeting the needs of these workless individuals:

Shorter daily and weekly work periods, in order that more workers shall be employed and all shall have leisure to enjoy the products of industry.

Higher incomes for wage earners, in order that this vast potential market may be able through its purchases to stimulate industries to their full capacity.

A system of Federal employment agencies for the workers, so that they may have most efficient service in finding all possible work opportunities.

A vocational guidance service connected with employment offices to help workers whose crafts are displaced by new production methods equip themselves for positions under new industrial conditions.

## Motreal Cloakmakers Honor Bro. Goldberg

By S. SENDEROVITZ  
Manager, Montreal Joint Council,  
I. L. G. W. U.

Montreal.—On Wednesday evening, June 4, 1930, a group of active cloakmakers in Montreal, together with all the Joint Council delegates, also chairmen and vice-chairmen from all our locals, spent a most enjoyable evening at the Mount Royal Dining Room, at a banquet tendered in honor of Brother Sol Goldberg, upon the eve of his departure for Boston.

During the course of the dinner, many inspiring speeches were given. Those who spoke were: Bro. A. Easton, chairman of the Joint Council; Bro. S. Feigelson, chairman of Local 43, also Bro. J. Freedman, vice-

chairman of Local 43; Bro. I. Beriman and J. Feldman, chairman and vice-chairman respectively of Local 61, also addressed the gathering. Some of the other speakers were Bro. Ship, chairman of the raincoat makers, that is Local 95, and the organizer, Bro. Plotnik. The chairman of the French Local 112, Bro. Fobitaille and the vice-chairman, Bro. Bar, also spoke. Bro. M. Kayser and Bro. H. Titleman of Local 19, also said a few words. Bro. S. Senderovitch and the new French business agent, Bro. Martel, also expressed their appreciation.

Every one of the speakers touched upon the good and conscientious work that Bro. Goldberg had done during his stay with us, and all were very sorry to have him leave us.

During the course of the many speeches, it was stated that as soon as the Joint Council begins to organize the dressmakers' local, we would ask Bro. Goldberg to come back here.

Bro. Goldberg, in a few words, thanked the brothers for their heartfelt gratitude and showed how he has felt at all times for the workers and especially for the cloakmakers.

Bro. Goldberg has been an active member of our organization for the past twenty years, ever since his boyhood; and although he was born in New York, yet he has spent most of his time in Montreal and has often helped us in grave difficulties. He has always been ready to do his best for our workers, particularly for the cloakmakers.

The workers of Montreal wish Bro. Goldberg every success wherever he may go.

## 2 WEEKS IN LOCAL 10

—By Samuel Perlmutter, Mgr.—

### The 10 Per Cent Reorganization Takes Place Last Week of This Month

The gift of the 10 per cent Reorganization, received by the Union at the hands of a Communist Leadership during the 1926 strike, is about to be displayed in effect, on the week beginning June 23, 1930.

This is the month when every active Union man working in a cloak shop, particularly those shops under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Council, is becoming fidgety and uneasy under the strain of this reorganization clause in our agreement.

While on this subject, it can be stated without fear of contradiction, that if a thorough examination were made in every shop where the reorganization clause has been exercised since the year of 1926, the year in which this reorganization baby was born, it would be found that with the exception of a very few firms, the workers were discharged as a means of intimidating the rest of the workers in those shops into submitting to sub-standard conditions, and certainly this reorganization clause was not practised in accordance with the spirit in which it was granted by the Commission.

It is in view of these facts that Brother Benjamin Schlesinger, the President of the International, in the last cloak strike of July, 1929, put up so determined a fight for the modification of this clause, and he finally succeeded to the extent that instead of having three reorganizations in two years, as was the case in the 1926 agreement, we now have two reorganizations in three years.

Another clause which offers a new breath of relief to our workers is that now a worker who is discharged has the right to bring his case before the Impartial Chairman, and in the event the Union can prove that the worker has been discriminated against on account of his union activities, he is entitled to be reinstated on the job.

As a result of this reorganization month, through which we are now passing, many cutters are calling at the office to obtain detailed information in this connection. Cutters are therefore urged, in the event of anticipated or actual discharges, to immediately notify the office, of same, and it will be taken up accordingly.

#### Signs of the Fall Season

On previous occasions, especially in the past four weeks, attention was called to the fact that the dull season has reached its nadir. At this time, however, it can be said that signs of the fall season are be-

coming manifest in most of the shops, particularly those known as the styleists and those under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Council. As a matter of fact, quite a few houses have already put on the full staff of cutters, while others are calling them in gradually, and from all appearances, before the month is over, the larger shops will be operating in full force.

#### A Matter of Interest

In the last few weeks, the office has been confronted with a number of very complicated cases, typical of which is the case of the firm of B. Ginsberg.

A few weeks ago, this firm rented out half of its loft, and by reason of this act, decided to reduce the factory, as well as the cutting department. Up to this time, the firm had employed five cutters, but now they declared that due to the lack of space, they are unable to employ any more than two cutters. In other words, they decided to discharge three cutters as well as a corresponding number of other workers.

The Industrial Council, representing the firm, took the position that the firm of B. Ginsberg is now reorganizing, in view of the fact that Mr. B. Ginsberg who has been connected with this firm for many years, is no longer connected with them, and a party by the name of Mendelsohn, and one of Mr. Ginsberg's brothers, are now making up this corporation.

The matter was submitted to the Impartial Chairman, and in the course of discussing the legal, and other circumstances surrounding this case, Mr. R. V. Ingersoll, Impartial Chairman of the cloak industry, was invited to visit this firm in person, and see whether the argument of space can be accepted as an excuse for the action of this firm. After a thorough investigation of the conditions of this case had been made Mr. Ginsberg was compelled to reinstate four cutters, and the fifth man, for whom there was no space found, it was agreed that he is to receive compensation equivalent to five weeks pay.

#### Walt and Dress Joint Board Launch Drive Against Saturday Work

As far as the dress industry is concerned, that trade was busy up to the early part of June on the Shantung and summer line, which is generally in demand at this time of the year. It seems, however, that there as well, the trade is slowing down. Nevertheless, the Walt and Dress Joint Board, at its recent meeting decided to launch a campaign against Saturday work, starting Saturday, June 7, 1930. Accordingly committees were assigned to patrol the dress market on Saturday morning in order to apprehend violators. These committees were comprised of active members, cutters included, and most of them were on the job as early as 7:00 A. M. It is needless to say, of course, that as many cutters as were found violating the Union conditions in connection with Saturday work, will be called before the Executive Board and disciplined.

#### Office Busy Adjusting Complaints With Regard to Overtime Rates

The office, according to Brother David Fruhling, is at this time very busy adjusting complaints, the majority of which have to do with overtime rates. This is no doubt due to the fact that most of the cutters working in the dress shops, having only recently become members of the Union, do not seem to grasp the seriousness

of receiving the proper rates for overtime.

In cases where the office discovered that the cutters were not receiving the proper rates for overtime, complaints were filed and collections of back pay were made. A list of the shops against which complaints were filed, and where collection of back pay for overtime was made will be given in the next issue.

In addition to this, the office is also confronted with difficulties in connection with day work. Only recently, a case of day work was taken up with the firm of the Lady ReJane, where the cutters were laid off in the middle of the week. Because of this action on the part of the firm, the cutters were stopped off, and the firm was forced to remit back pay for a full week.

#### Organization Campaign About to be Started in the Miscellaneous Division

The agreement in the Children's Dress Industrial is about to expire. As a result of this, steps are being taken by the International to start an organization campaign, as a preliminary prerequisite for a general strike. Brother Harry Greenberg, manager of Local No. 91, has requested Local No. 10, to start this preliminary campaign in order to set the foundation for the impending general strike, for as in the dress industry, Local 10 started a campaign amongst the cutters about three months prior to the declaration of the general strike, so in this Miscellaneous Division, as well Brother Harry Greenberg, with the consent of the International, feels that Local 10 should be the forerunner of the contemplated general strike.

The Miscellaneous trade has undergone many changes during the past six years or so. The old type of employers are no longer in existence, and the trade has gone almost completely into different hands. Cutting departments employing as many as ten and fifteen cutters can now be found in his trade. The International has consented to finance Local 10, in conjunction with Local 10, to start activities in this direction, and the same applies to Local 62, the underwear industry.

There as well non-union cutters employed in that trade have called at the office in response to a circular that was distributed about the market, urging the cutters to take advantage of this organization campaign and become unionized so that Union conditions may be enforced in their shops. Last Wednesday, June 4th, about forty underwear cutters gathered at the headquarters of Local 10, and declared their desire to join the local. Most of them have already joined and paid in their initiation fees.

#### Cutters Come Cheerfully to the Aid of the Families of Our Late Vice-President Jacob Fleisher and Brother Harry Cohen

In the last issue of the Justice, attention was called to the tragic disasters that have befallen the families

of our beloved brothers Jacob Fleisher, former vice-president of our local, and Brother Harry Cohen, and an appeal was made to the cutters, calling upon them to contribute liberally towards the funds that are being raised for these two families, who are left destitute and in dire need.

Considering the fact that the cloak trade is at this time, practically at a standstill, with hardly any cutters employed, and no better conditions can be boasted of in the dress trade, it must be said that the cutters are to be complimented upon their response to this appeal. In the last issue of the Justice a list of the names of those who had already contributed to this fund was printed, and the following is a list of additional contributions that we have received since then.

Cutters of Philip Schlansky	\$25.00
Ildore Nagler	15.00
Workers of Public Dress	50.00
H. Rosenzweig	5.00
Jack Goldstein	5.00
Sol Danziger	5.00
W. Patterson	5.00
Louis Gilbert	5.00
Joe Ades	10.00
Abe Cohen	5.00
Cutters of Lustberg & Lipschitz	25.00
Sam Massover	5.00
Jacob White	5.00
Morris Wolinsky	5.00
Pullus Levine	5.00
Julius Bender	5.00
Harry Friedman	5.00
Max Blum	5.00
Max Stoller	10.00
Cutters of B. Heller & Co.	
Ildore Baker	5.00
Ike Longin	5.00
Age Thayer	5.00

Previously collected .....\$482.00  
Total .....\$703.00

Cutters who desire to make contributions to this fund, are requested to appear at the office of Local 10, and see either Mr. David Fruhling, or the bookkeeper, Mr. Louis Binger.

### RACKETEERING TO BE SURVEYED AT CONFERENCE OF LEAGUE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

The growth, the diversity and the returns of "racketeering" will be studied at a four-day conference of the League for Industrial Democracy, from June 26th to June 29th. Stuart Chase, Professor Paul H. Douglas, John T. Flynn, Donald Richberg, and Norman Thomas are among the twenty students of political, economic and financial life who will deliver papers at the conference, which will be the League's sixteenth annual summer conference. The sessions, beginning the evening of June 26th, will continue through until the following Sunday afternoon, and will be held at Camp Tamiment, at Forest Park, Pennsylvania. Paul Blanshard will act as general chairman.

### ATTENTION, CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10

#### New Working Cards Will Be Issued July 1st, 1930

All cloak, dress, reefer and raincoat cutters, must renew their old working cards, and secure another when obtaining a job.

A rigid control will be started early in July in all shops, be started early in July in all shops, and any member found working without a new working card, will be called before the Executive Board.

### Attention, Cutters of Local Ten

#### THE NEXT REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETING OF LOCAL 10

will be held  
MONDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1930

at  
ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARKS PLACE  
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

Cutters Are Urged to Attend This Meeting Without Fail. Books Will be Stamped Signifying Attendance, and the \$1.00 Fine for Non-Attendance Will be STRICTLY ENFORCED.